



AES+F, Turandot 2070, 2021

I KNOW – On the aesthetic of truth

February 2, 2023 - 6pm CET

Berlin | online

aaajiao, AES+F, Cibelle Cavalli Bastos, Claudia Hart, Yehwan Song

"I know because I'm an intellectual who tries to follow everything that happens, to imagine everything that is unknown or unspoken, who connects facts that may seem disparate, that puts together the disorganized and fragmentary pieces of an entire coherent picture, who restores logic where arbitrariness, folly, and mystery seem to rule." — Pier Paolo Pasolini

Feral File and synthesis gallery are pleased to announce *I Know*, an exhibition exploring what an aesthetic of truth might be. Curated by Giorgio Vitale, *I Know* features an intergenerational group of five artists, each embracing very different aesthetics and artistic strategies. Their works in the show address anxieties about the turmoil we are now experiencing around the world and offer critical reflections on it.

The "truth" considered in this exhibition is not a scientific or academic one, but rather an imaginative one. It is based on the slow unfolding that viewers experience when they sit with an artwork. In our current post-truth society, in

which veracity and accuracy are sacrificed on the altar of hyperbole and misinformation, I Know invites artists to reexamine historical moments and to evoke images of the past in order to claim a place within it. These artists struggle with power, inequality, and discrimination, addressing debates about mass surveillance and the architecture of the web3. The works in the exhibition reflect on traditional modes of thinking, both inside of and outside of the arts, and in so doing make way for future possibilities.

In his work "Unzip," Chinese artist aaajiao calls for solidarity in the NFT market by developing a system that actually forces only virtuous trading. His work is made of a 15-zip package file. Each zip includes an NFT that can only be unzipped once all the 15 are collected. AES+F has contributed a fantastical video excerpted from the iconic "Turandot 2070" - a techno-feminist vision of the future inspired by Giacomo Puccini's homonymous opera. Cibelle Cavalli Bastos leverages artificial intelligence to ponder the in-between, tracking their transition to non-binary over a period of two decades through a personal online archive. Claudia Hart's "The Art of Survival: Aphorisms by an Old Girl" are maxims inspired by Machiavelli's The Prince and Sun Tzu's The Art of War, meant to heal a flaming public space where discussion has been polarized by social media and current real politics. Yehwan Song's work challenges the idea of technology as neutral, by exposing user-friendly interfaces disguising the real violence lurking beneath their sugary surfaces.

I Know embraces oddities. It speaks loudly, without saying a word. It is paradoxical and incomprehensible. It requires interpretation. It calls for philosophical answers. The title of the exhibition is inspired by Pier Paolo Pasolini's 1974 *j'accuse 'Io So'* ("I know" in Italian), which became the symbol of a generation in Italy: a hymn to intellectual freedom and the importance of the civil role played by artists and intellectuals in questioning the status quo and resisting silence and connivance by embracing folly and the absurd.

I Know is a brutal liberation. No less.

aaajiao (b. 1984, CHN, <https://eventstructure.com>). The art and works by Chinese artist Xu Wenkai aka aaajiao are marked by a strong dystopian awareness, literati spirits and sophistication. Many of aaajiao's works speak to new thinkings, controversies and phenomenon around the Internet, with specific projects focusing on the processing of data, the blogsphere and China's Great Fire Wall to capture the pulse of the young generation consuming cyber technology and living in social media.

AES+F (RUS, <https://aesf.art>). First formed as AES Group in 1987 by Tatiana Arzamasova, Lev Evzovich, and Evgeny Svyatsky, the collective became AES+F when Vladimir Fridkes joined in 1995. AES+F work at the intersection of traditional media, photography, video, and digital technologies. They define their practice as a "social psychoanalysis" through which they reveal and explore the values, vices, and conflicts of contemporary global culture.

Cibelle Cavalli Bastos (b. 1978, BRA, <https://cibellecavallibastos.xyz>). The practice of Cavalli Bastos is a continuous reflection on the reuse of materials and data that channel psycho-cognitive perception through examination and transformation from positions of the in-between. Performances, painting,

sculpture, AI, and mixed reality weave and collage together fragments of whole notions of identity, questions of artistic labor, and challenges to formalism.

Claudia Hart (b. 1955, USA, <https://claudiahart.com>) is an artist and professor in the Department of Film, Video, New Media, Animation at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. She is represented by bitforms gallery, New York. Hart has been active as an artist, curator, and critic since 1988. She creates virtual representations that take the form of 3D imagery integrated into photography, animated loops, and multi-channel animation installations.

Yehwan Song (b. 1995, KOR, <https://yhsong.com>) is a Korean-born artist whose work centers on finding the discomfort hidden in the excessively comfortable web environments to address systemic inequality. The work reveals the inconvenience that users who do not belong to the main user group experience and criticizes the overgeneralization of user groups and the oversimplification of web interfaces that pursue excessive comfort and consistency only. She pursues diversity above consistency and efficiency.

Feral File (<https://feralfile.com>) commissions curated exhibitions of digital artwork and it partners with artists and institutions to explore new ways of exhibiting and collecting. Evolving from the art gallery and publishing models, it borrows the best traits of each to inform a new kind of art space. Feral File works in tandem with a community of technologists, new media artists, collectors, and curators to redefine and frame a sustainable model for the future of digital experimentation.

synthesis gallery is an immersive blend of technology and art displayed under one roof, showcasing cutting-edge experiences by new wave artists and visionaries through virtual and augmented reality. Since its inception in 2017, the gallery has produced over twenty exhibitions of new media art in Berlin and abroad, online and on chain and is dedicated to exhibiting internationally renowned, well-established artists alongside emerging ones.

Exhibition: February 2 – February 5, 2023, 2pm-8pm CET

Private tour: February 2, 2023 - 5pm CET (by invitation)

Opening: February 2, 2023 - 6pm CET

Press accreditation: [email](#) to register, +49 174 274 7842

Venue: Oranienstraße 58, 10969 – Berlin

Online venue: <https://feralfile.com>

Viewing: February 2, 2023 – 2pm UTC

Collecting starts: 3pm UTC

The exhibition is part of [NFT Biennial](#) and [Transmediale](#) / [Vorspiel](#) 2023.

Join the discussion about the exhibition online at:

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